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PAGE 01 STATE 097522

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CODEL PERCY

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN NEW YORK, DAR
ES SALAAM, MAPUTO, GABORONE, CAPE TOWN FROM PRETORIA
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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR RH ZA

SUBJ: CODEL, PERCY REPORT ON TALKS WITH CORRESPONDENTS IN LUSAKA

SENATOR PERCY HAS ASKED FOLLOWING REPORT BE TRANSMITTED
TO WASHINGTON WITH COPIES BEING PROVIDED TO:

SECDEF

GENERAL SCOWCROFT

GEORGE BUSH

US PERM REP UN SCRANTON

NADINE JACOBSEN, SEN. PERCY'S OFFICE

PAT HOLT, SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

1. CODEL MET IN LUSAKA APRIL 19 WITH REUTERS CORRESPONDENT
FRED BRIDGELAND AND JOHN BORREL, REPRESENTING LONDON
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PAGE 02 STATE 097522

OBSERVER AND 12 NORTH AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS INCLUDING

WASHINGTON POST, AND SHADRACK SAKS OF LUSAKA DAILY MAIL, TO OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. ALL HAD SPENT TIME IN ANGOLA AND TOLD CODEL THAT THEY BELIEVE SECSTATE WAS RIGHT AND CONGRESS WRONG IN THEIR PUBLIC ASSESSMENTS OF CUBAN AND SOVIET THREAT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. ALTHOUGH CORRESPONDENTS DID NOT INDICATE THEY THOUGHT EARLY TRANSFER OF CUBAN FORCES TO RHODESIAN STRUGGLE LIKELY, THEY BELIEVED THAT BLACK RHODESIANS WOULD EVENTUALLY CONCLUDE THAT THEY COULD ONLY DISPLACE IAN SMITH WITH EXTENSIVE OUTSIDE HELP AND WOULD SEEK SOVIET ARMS AND CUBAN TROOPS, THUS BECOMING DEPENDENT ON SAME.

2. CODEL COMMENT: THIS VIEW IS PARTIALLY CONSISTENT WITH THOSE EXPRESSED TO CODEL BY PRESIDENTS NYERERE AND KAUNDA (DESCRIBED SEPTEL). NEITHER PRESIDENT MINIMIZES THE DANGER THAT RHODESIAN BLACK LIBERATION FORCES MAY BE DRIVEN TOWARD MILITARY DEPENDENCE ON SOVIETS AND CUBANS BY FAILURE OF WESTERN POWERS AND SOUTH AFRICA TO HELP ORCHESTRATE FULL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON IAN SMITH. KAUNDA AND NYERERE BOTH SAY BLACK RHODESIANS WOULD BE JUSTIFIED IN TURNING TO SOVIETS AND CUBANS UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND RESULT WOULD HARDLY BE TO ENHANCE THEIR REGARD FOR WESTERN POWERS. MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS' ASSESSMENT AND THAT OF BORREL AND BRIDGELAND SEEMS TO BE THAT PRESIDENTS PROFESS TO BELIEVE RHODESIANS WOULD RESIST SOVIET DOMINATION EVEN IF THEY PLAY CRUCIAL ROLE IN ARMED STRUGGLE. BORREL INDICATED STRONG DOUBTS ON THIS SCORE; ASKED SEVERAL TIMES IF US ARMS AID TO LIBERATION FORCES A POSSIBILITY. SENATOR REPLIED THAT HE UNAWARE ANY REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE AND ADVISED BORREL TO DIRECT QUESTION TO SECSTATE.

3. CODEL ARGUED WITH NYERERE AND KAUNDA THAT FEELING OF BLACK NATIONALISM SO STRONG AND FIGHT TO SECURE FREEDOM FROM COLONIALISM SO BITTER THAT ONCE INDEPENDENCE OBTAINED, NEW SOVEREIGN NATIONS WOULD MIGHTILY RESIST DEPENDENT STATUS. SEN. PERCY POINTED OUT IN ALL DISCUSSIONS HIS BELIEF THAT LIBERATION LEADERS WELL AWARE OF HISTORY OF EASTERN EUROPE AND SOPHISTICATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 097522

ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE USSR AID ALWAYS HAS ITS PRICE. IF IN DOUBT QUOTE JUST ASK YOUR FRIENDS THE CHINESE UNQUOTE. ALSO CODEL POINTED OUT NEED EMERGING NATIONS HAVE FOR US TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE, FUTURE TRADE AND SUPPORT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS WHICH SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

4. CODEL COMMENT: APART FROM EXTREME IMPROBABILITY THAT

CONGRESS WOULD EVEN CONSIDER SENDING US ARMS TO ANY SIDE
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, I BELIEVE IT FAR BETTER FOR US TO
WORK IN CONCERT TOWARD EARLY MAJORITY RULE WITH ALL OTHER
INTERESTED POWERS TO MINIMIZE BLOODSHED (AND LIKELIHOOD
OF BLACK RHODESIAN DEPENDENCE ON COMMUNIST POWERS).
INSTRUMENTS OF THIS POLICY SHOULD BE POLITICAL AND
ECONOMIC AND DESIGNED TO SHOW IAN SMITH THE SUICIDAL
FUTILITY OF HIS INTRANSIGENCE. BOWDLER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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